

THE LEVENSHULME
URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report
FOR 1904.

Manchester :

JAMES COLLINS & KINGSTON LIMITED, 4, SOUTHGATE.

—
1905.

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Levenshulme Urban District Council.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Twentieth Annual Report on the health and the sanitary condition of your District during the past year, 1904.

The Report is of a favourable character, as I have again to record a low death rate, a low rate of infantile mortality, a moderate incidence of infectious disease, and a steady progress in the improvement of the sanitary conditions of the District.

The number of houses and of the population continue to increase, though not quite so rapidly; and at the end of the year 3763 houses were occupied, an increase of 162 over the previous year. The number of new houses certified as fit for habitation was 318.

The population at the middle of the year was estimated at 15,500, an increase of 2000 over last year, and on this figure all the calculations are based. In 1891 the Census figures were: Inhabited houses, 2675; population, 11,485; and average number of persons per house, 4.29.

The number of inhabited houses in each Ward at the end of the year were: North-West, 539; South-West, 769; North-East, 1624; South-East, 831.

The area of the District is 605 acres, and the number of persons per acre 25.6.

The whole of the District is situated on a thick bed of the boulder clay, overlying the lower permian sandstone. On the surface is a layer of alluvium, varying from four to twelve inches in thickness.

During the year 170 deaths occurred in the District, which is equivalent to a death-rate of 10.96 per thousand of the population.

During the last three years this rate has not exceeded 11 per thousand. Last year it was 10·59, and the average for the past ten years 11·55. To make our statistics more accurate it is necessary to add to these the deaths of twelve residents which occurred outside the District, chiefly in Manchester hospitals, thus making the total number of deaths belonging to the District 182, and the corrected death-rate 11·74 per thousand. Of these deaths 93 were males and 89 females.

The number of births registered during the year was 448—males 234, females 214,—which is equivalent to a birth-rate of 28·90 per thousand of the population. This is the lowest rate of the last three years, but is above the average of the past ten years, 27·83. The excess of births over deaths, or the natural increase, was 266. Of the births nine were illegitimate; of the deaths one.

In the following table are given the chief vital statistics for England and Wales and for our District:—

TABLE I.
Comparative Vital Statistics.

AREA.	Population estimated to middle of 1901.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Zymotic Death-rate.	Infantile Mortality.
England and Wales .....	...	27·9	16·2	1·94	146
Rural England and Wales ...	...	26·8	15·3	1·28	125
76 Great Towns .....	...	29·1	17·2	2·49	160
112 Smaller Towns.....	...	27·5	15·6	2·02	151
Withington	37,000	20·4	11·8	0·60	94
Gorton	30,000	36·0	19·26	2·3	199
Levenshulme	15,500	28·90	11·74	1·50	105

It will be seen that our District compares favourably in every respect.

To compare the District with itself at different periods I have given the chief statistics for the whole of the period for which I have the figures available:—

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of Whole District from 1877 to 1904.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS Registered in the District.				Deaths of non-residents.	Deaths of residents belonging to the District.	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.	Under one year of age.		At all ages.				No.	Rate.
				No.	Rate per 1000 BTHS	No.	Rate.				
1877	3,220	124	38.50	12	97	56	17.39	...	...	...	...
1878	3,300	119	36.06	14	117	66	20.00	...	...	...	...
1879	3,380	122	36.09	12	98	61	18.04	..	...	...	...
1880	3,470	105	30.26	7	67	52	15.01	...	...	...	..
1881	3,550	131	37.74	14	101	48	13.52	...	...	...	...
1882	3,650	129	35.34	22	171	61	16.71	...	...	...	...
1883	3,850	123	31.94	9	73	54	14.02	...	...	...	...
1884	4,100	156	38.05	17	108	64	15.60	...	...	...	...
1885	4,460	152	34.08	19	125	86	19.28	...	...	...	...
1886	4,600	149	32.39	22	147	76	16.52	...	...	...	...
1887	4,750	150	31.57	17	112	77	16.21	..	...	...	...
1888	5,000	156	31.20	15	96	67	13.40	...	...	...	...
1889	5,200	158	30.38	21	132	88	16.92	...	...	...	...
1890	5,400	154	28.52	24	155	88	16.30	...	...	...	...
1891	5,550	156	28.10	17	109	84	15.11	...	...	...	...
1892	5,800	155	26.72	15	96	89	15.34	...	...	...	...
1893	6,500	173	26.61	39	226	105	16.15	...	...	...	...
1894	7,000	196	28.00	17	86	80	11.43	...	...	...	...
1895	7,800	175	22.43	23	131	104	13.33	...	...	...	...
1896	8,500	244	28.70	20	82	96	11.29	...	...	...	...
1897	9,200	223	24.24	42	188	123	13.37	...	...	...	...
1898	9,700	236	24.33	20	84	108	11.12	...	5	113	11.65
1899	10,300	270	26.24	50	185	136	13.20	...	8	144	13.98
1900	10,900	307	28.16	45	146	114	10.45	...	5	119	10.91
1901	11,700	374	31.96	48	128	147	12.56	...	5	152	13.00
1902	12,500	382	30.56	35	91	128	10.24	..	12	140	11.20
1903	13,500	405	30.00	40	98	143	10.59	...	14	157	11.63
Avg. for Years 1894-1903	10,110	281	27.83	34	124	147	14.55	...	8	137	13.55
1904	15,500	448	28.90	47	105	170	10.96	...	12	182	11.74

To show the improvement more graphically I have calculated the average death-rates for periods of five years as far as I could, and it will be seen there is a decided reduction, while the population has increased: 1877-1880 = 17·54; 1881-1885 = 15·77; 1886-1890 = 15·81; 1891-1895 = 14·27; 1896-1900 = 12·28; 1901-1904 = 11·89.

The figures for the different Wards for the past year are shown in the next table:—

TABLE III.

	North-West.	South-West.	North-East.	South-East.
Population, Estimated	2,300	3,100	6,550	3,550
Total Number of Deaths ...	32	27	74	49
Death-rate	13·91	8·71	11·28	13·80
Total Number of Births ...	50	63	223	112
Birth-rate... ..	21·74	20·32	34·01	31·55
Deaths under 1 year	4	3	28	12
Infantile Mortality	80	47	125	107

North-West Ward has a high death-rate and a low birth-rate; in South-West Ward all the rates are low; in North-East Ward the birth-rate and infantile mortality are high; and in South-East Ward the death-rate and birth-rate are high.

In the next table the deaths are arranged in groups, according to the ages at which they occurred, together with the figures for the five previous years.

TABLE IV.

Table of the Ages at which the Deaths occurred, from 1899 to 1904.

	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Under 1 year	50	45	49	35	40	47
Between 1 and 5 years	21	8	15	17	11	35
,, 5 ,, 15 ,,	3	2	5	7	5	5
,, 15 ,, 25 ,,	2	5	1	4	8	9
,, 25 ,, 65 ,,	44	39	45	49	50	61
Over 65 years	16	19	34	28	41	22
Totals	136	114	152	140	157	182

Of those over 65 years, 10 were between 65 and 70 years; 11 between 70 and 80; and one over 80 years. They constituted 12 per cent of the total deaths, a less proportion than usual.

The number of deaths under one year was 17, and on comparing this with the 118 births we obtain a rate of mortality during the first year of life of 105 per thousand. This is above the rates of the last two years, but is below the average for the past ten years of 118, and also those of the country generally, as shown in Tables I. and II. This rate is liable to great variations, but it indicates a satisfactory condition and care generally on the part of the parents.

Of the total number of deaths they formed 26 per cent, almost the same as the last two years.

The causes of these 17 deaths are classified and analysed in the next table, and compared with the corresponding figures for the five previous years.

TABLE V.

Cause of Death under One Year of Age, from 1899 to 1904.

CLASS.	NAME.	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Pulmonary Diseases	Bronchitis and Pneumonia...	8	4	4	4	9	6
	Scarlet Fever.....	...	1	...	...	...	...
Infectious Diseases	Measles	4	...	...	1	1	4
	Whooping Cough.....	...	...	1	2	3	4
	Diarrhea	10	3	9	2	1	3
	Tuberculosis	9	7	4	3	1	2
Diet Diseases	Gastro-enteric Catarrh ...	...	8	3	3	6	8
	Convulsions	4	1	6	6	5	4
	Marasmus	5	3	4	3	1	3
Congenital Diseases	Premature Birth	4	11	9	6	1	12
	Congenital Defects ...	...	...	3	3	4	3
	Debility .....	...	...	3	3	4	...
	Other causes	6	4	3	4	4	1
Totals.....		50	45	49	35	40	47

The number due to diseases and disorders of nutrition was 15; the total from infectious diseases 10, four of which were due to

whooping cough, and only two to tuberculosis; congenital diseases accounted for 15; and the number due to premature birth, 12, is unusually high, and forms a great contrast to the previous year, 1; bronchitis and pneumonia were the cause in 6.

Of children under five years of age, inclusive of those mentioned in the last table, the deaths numbered 82, which is equal to a rate of 5.1 per thousand of the population, and to 41 per cent of the total deaths. This rate is higher than those of the last two years, 3.7 and 4.1.

In the following table are shown the causes of death of these children for the past six years.

TABLE VI.

Causes of Death in Children under 5 years of age, from 1899 to 1904.

NAME.	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Bronchitis and Pneumonia.....	14	4	6	7	11	12
Scarlet Fever .....	...	1	...	1	1	...
Measles	11	1	3	2	1	5
Whooping Cough.....	...	2	1	6	4	9
Diphtheria .....	...	1	...	...	...	2
Diarrhoea	10	3	9	2	1	7
Tuberculosis	11	9	7	5	5	3
Gastro-enteric Catarrh .....	...	8	3	5	6	9
All other causes	25	24	35	24	22	35
Totals.....	71	53	64	52	51	82

The deaths between one and five years number 35, which is a larger number than usual, and the deaths from almost every cause are higher than in any of the previous four years, especially from measles, whooping cough, and bronchitis and pneumonia. This is usually the period of incidence of the two infectious diseases mentioned, and the practice of sending such young children to school undoubtedly increases their spread and their mortality, and it will be seen that no deaths from these diseases occurred at later ages.

For the purpose of comparison with previous years the cause of death at all ages is given in a concise form.

TABLE VII.

**Total Deaths throughout the District in Persons at all ages,
from 1898 to 1904.**

DISEASES.	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles.....	...	12	...	3	2	2	5
Scarlet Fever .....	...	1	2	2	3	1	1
Diphtheria	1	...	1	...	2	...	2
Whooping Cough .....	...	...	2	1	6	4	9
Enteric Fever and Continued Fever.....	1	...	1	2	...	1	...
Erysipelas	1	1	...	...	...	1	...
Diarrhoea	5	10	4	9	2	2	7
Puerperal Fever .....	...	1	...	...	1	1	...
Phthisis and Tuberculosis ...	17	15	20	15	17	14	27
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, etc....	19	34	11	21	16	33	30
Heart Disease	14	9	6	10	10	13	11
Cancer	3	4	7	7	8	8	12
Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of Liver.....	2	1	2	3	1	2	2
Injuries.....	4	2	3	3	3	6	3
Other Diseases not classified...	50	58	61	83	78	79	73
Totals.....	113	144	118	152	140	157	182

Of these deaths 2 were uncertified by medical men ; in 6 cases inquests were held, of these 3 were due to accidents, 3 to natural causes.

The deaths from phthisis and tuberculosis, 18 and 9 respectively, making a total of 27, were much above the average ; those from bronchitis and pneumonia were again high as in the previous year, and there was also an increase from cancer.

In the next table these deaths are classified according to the cause of death, the age, and the ward in which they occurred, in the form prescribed by the Local Government Board.

TABLE VIII.

Causes of and Ages at Death during 1904.

Deaths in or belonging to Whole District, at Subjoined Ages.								Deaths in or belonging to localities (Wards) at all Ages.			
Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	NW	SW	SE	SE
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	5	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1
Scarlet Fever	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Whooping Cough	9	4	5	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	5
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other Continued .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Cholera .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	7	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	...
Enteritis	11	8	1	...	1	1	...	1	2	6	2
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	18	...	1	...	2	14	1	6	2	5	5
Other Tubercular Diseases	9	2	1	1	2	3	...	3	1	4	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	12	...	...	...	1	9	2	3	1	5	3
Bronchitis	23	6	2	1	...	8	6	4	5	11	3
Pneumonia	7	...	4	...	...	3	...	1	1	4	1
Pleurisy	3	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver											
Venereal Diseases .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	12	12	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	6
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	11	1	...	2	...	5	3	...	2	3	6
Accidents	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	1
Suicides .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
All other causes	45	10	9	...	1	17	8	8	3	22	12
All causes	182	47	35	5	9	64	22	32	27	74	49

The chief points in this table have already been alluded to in considering the previous ones.

The total deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases, viz., smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, enteric fever, and epidemic diarrhoea was 24, and the zymotic death rate 1·5 per thousand, which is also the average for the past 10 years.

In the next table are shown the number of deaths and the rates for the past 10 years from zymotic diseases, pulmonary diseases, and phthisis.

TABLE IX.
Comparison of the Mortality from Zymotic Diseases
from 1895 to 1904.

Total Deaths from	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Zymotic Diseases	29	6	19	8	24	11	17	16	10	21
Zymotic Death Rate ...	3·7	·7	2·0	·8	2·3	1·0	1·4	1·2	·74	1·5
Pulmonary Diseases	19	20	23	18	32	14	24	16	33	30
Pulmonary Death Rate	2·4	2·3	2·2	1·8	2·9	1·25	2·05	1·2	2·41	1·93
Phthisis	13	18	11	11	4	10	6	12	6	18
Phthisis Death Rate ...	1·6	2·1	1·2	1·4	·36	·87	·91	·96	·44	1·14

During the year 55 cases of the chief infectious diseases were notified, all by medical men, and in the next table these are compared with the figures of previous years.

TABLE X.
Cases of Infectious Diseases notified from 1896 to 1904.

	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
Scarlet Fever	28	23	18	27	67	101	19	26	31
Diphtheria and Croup	3	1	5	2	7	10	11	4	10
Enteric and Continued Fever	8	4	1	6	1	5	1	8	3
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	3	...	1	...	...	1	2	...
Erysipelas	1	3	5	13	6	10	1	7	3
Totals	40	37	32	49	81	126	36	51	55

The total number is higher than those of the last two years, the chief increase being in cases of scarlet fever, and we have again to include smallpox.

48 houses were affected by the 55 cases.

The age of occurrence and the distribution of the cases is shown in the next table.

TABLE XI.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole District.							Total Cases notified in each Ward.				Number of Cases removed to Hospital in each Ward.			
	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-65	Over 65 years	N.W.	S.W.	N.E.	S.E.	N.W.	S.W.	N.E.	S.E.
Smallpox	5	...	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	2	3
Diphtheria	10	...	4	5	1	...	...	...	1	3	6	...	...	2	5
Erysipelas	3	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	34	...	8	19	5	2	...	5	11	8	10	2	4	5	8
Enteric Fever	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	55	..	12	27	8	8	...	7	13	14	21	3	4	10	16

33 cases from 26 houses were removed to hospital, 5 cases of smallpox to Hyde, the other 28 to Baguley.

During the past year the agreement entered into with the Withington Urban District Council has been modified by the Manchester Corporation Act of 1904, with respect to the use of Baguley Sanatorium by this Council, to the advantage, so far as charges are concerned, of the Council.

The number removed forms the largest proportion of cases hitherto recorded, and in the next table is shown the percentages for the last six years. This includes the four diseases for which hospital isolation is provided, viz., smallpox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and enteric fever.

TABLE XII.

Year.	Cases Notified.	Number Removed to Hospital.	Percentage Removed.
1899	35	13	37
1900	75	16	21
1901	116	28	24
1902	31	8	26
1903	42	18	43
1904	52	33	63

The increase is marked, and is an indication of the increased favour with which isolation in hospital is regarded by the parents. The care and attention with which they have been treated has been gratefully acknowledged in many instances, and especial emphasis has been laid on the kindness of the staff and the salubrity of the hospital surroundings.

All the cases except those of smallpox have been removed in the brougham ambulance under the care of the Inspector or his assistant ; those removed to Hyde were moved in the special ambulance provided. Provision for their return by cab at the Council's expense has worked satisfactorily.

Reports of the conditions of the patients have been received each morning with but a few exceptions : visiting was greatly restricted to obviate any infection from smallpox.

No return cases were noted after hospital isolation, and this exemption I consider due to the extreme care taken by the Medical Officer, Dr. T. Basil Rhodes, in all cases complicated with either nose, throat, or ear affections, and which necessitated a prolonged stay in several instances. Instructions were also given as to modified isolation for a short period after return from hospital.

Two deaths occurred in hospital, one from scarlet fever and one from diphtheria. The percentage of deaths in hospital is the same as that of cases removed.

Measles and whooping cough were both widely prevalent for a time; the other diseases at no time were much above the average. It is necessary to consider some of these in detail, owing to their serious nature.

No schools required to be closed during the year.

Smallpox. After an interval of nearly eleven months, this disease again appeared in the District. In February information was received of persons who had been in contact with cases, and these were kept under observation, but the first case was notified on April 5th. Altogether five cases were notified in five houses. All the cases were removed to Hyde Isolation Hospital for Smallpox, and all recovered.

A report giving particulars of the cases has been received from Dr. Bennett, of Hyde, as follows:—

TABLE XIV.

ADDRESS.	Sex.	Age.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Duration. Days.	Type of Disease.	Vaccination Marks.		
							No.	Size in inches	When Vaccinated
Broom Lane	M.	37	April 5	April 25	20	Discrete	2	3	Infancy
Elbow Street.....	F.	5	„ 26	June 25	60	Confluent	1		Unvaccinated
Delamere Road...	F.	50	Aug 22	Sept. 5	14	Discrete	2	3	Infancy
Rostron Street ...	F.	27	„ 23	„ 5	13	„	1	2	„
Henderson Street	M.	37	Sept. 3	Oct. 27	51	„	1	3	„

Four cases were adults, and one was a child; the four adults had been vaccinated in infancy, but had not been revaccinated. The type of disease was mild, and the eruption discrete with few pocks, and the duration of the actual attack was short.

The child had not been successfully vaccinated. The attack was extremely severe, the eruption confluent, with many pocks close together, and the duration of the attack prolonged. Immediately after notification was received, the case was visited and removed in a few hours to hospital; the inmates of the house and other contacts were almost all revaccinated, the bedding and clothing were taken to

the disinfectant and stoved thoroughly, the rooms were fumigated with formalin, and afterwards the walls were stripped and the ceilings scraped, and the furniture washed with a disinfecting solution of corrosive sublimate. The house was revisited periodically during the next fortnight, and the contacts kept under observation. Owing, I believe, to revaccination and to the energetic action taken, no other cases arose from these, and the outbreak was limited to those first attacked.

Careful inquiry was made as to the possible origin of each case, but no source of infection could be traced, except that in one case I had reason to believe another inmate had passed through an extremely mild attack unrecognised even by his medical attendant.

Several of the cases were so slight that they might easily have escaped detection.

Contacts were again reported at later dates, but no cases developed from them.

It is necessary still to insist on the necessity of vaccination and revaccination, the value of which is illustrated by our experience as recorded above.

Scarlet Fever.—During the year 35 cases in 30 houses were notified; in 28 houses there was one case, in one house two, and in one four cases. The attacks were spread over the year, but were more frequent in the latter half, and the cases were distributed over the District; south-west ward having the largest number, 11. 19 cases were removed from 15 houses to Baguley Sanatorium, a percentage of 56 of the cases notified, the largest proportion hitherto removed.

No fresh case occurred in any house after removal, nor in any in which the patient was isolated at home, but one undetected case gave rise to three others. The attacks were mild and only one death occurred, in hospital; there were no return cases.

A notable feature of the cases is the age incidence, as shown in Table XI., 26 cases being over 5 years of age, 7 of these over 15 years. A large number of cases were of young people at work, who probably became infected either at work or in travelling, and it was impossible in most cases to ascertain the source.

The value of hospital isolation for this disease has recently been called into question, and also the dangers involved in the aggregation of cases in hospital. Our experience has not been very large, and there are many fallacies to be guarded against, but so far as my observation and judgment have gone, I am of opinion that, while cases can be efficiently isolated at home under favourable circumstances of ample accommodation and small families, prompt removal and isolation in hospital materially prevent the spread of the disease among the larger families in small houses which form a large proportion of our population. The dangers of aggregation, which are real and recognised, can, I believe, be guarded against, and have been practically absent in our cases at Baguley.

The table below shows the percentage of cases of scarlet fever removed to hospital during the past seven years.

TABLE XV.

Year.	Number Notified.	Number Removed to Hospital.	Percentage Removed.
1898	18	3	17
1899	27	13	48
1900	67	15	24
1901	101	28	28
1902	19	8	42
1903	26	13	50
1904	31	19	56

Diphtheria.—10 cases in seven houses were notified; single cases in six houses, four in one house. In five of these cases a bacteriological examination was made; three gave affirmative results, two negative, and these were doubtful cases; seven cases from four houses were removed to hospital; two deaths occurred, one in hospital, one in the district.

A number of suspicious cases of inflamed throats occurred, and in 10 cases examination was made with negative results.

Enteric Fever.—The incidence of this disease has been very slight, only three cases in three houses having been notified, one of which was doubtful; two cases were removed to hospital; there were no deaths. In five cases altogether bacteriological examinations were made; two gave affirmative, three negative results.

Erysipelas.—3 cases were notified; there were no deaths.

Puerperal Fever.—No notifications were received.

Measles.—This disease became very prevalent for a time, and assumed the dimensions of a slight epidemic for a short period. During the month of March a number of cases were reported to me. In April it was not quite so prevalent, but during May and June the cases were very numerous, and affected the attendance in the infants' departments of all the schools in the district. The epidemic then began to decline, although fresh cases continued to occur during the next four months. During the last few months the district has been almost free. As this disease affects chiefly children under school age, it is impossible to ascertain the exact number attacked without making it notifiable or visiting every house affected in the neighborhood. The question of notification was considered by the Health Committee, but it was decided that the advantages were not sufficiently obvious, and the difficulties of enforcement too great in the present state of opinion regarding the disease. Five deaths occurred from it, all of children under five years of age.

Whooping Cough.—A large number of cases were reported to me, and during March, April, May, and June it was very prevalent. It persisted during the next four months, though not to so great an extent. During the last two months the cases have been comparatively few. With its complications it was the cause of 9 deaths, all of children under five years.

Chicken pox.—This has not been notifiable, and has not appeared to be nearly so prevalent as in the previous year.

Diarrhœa.—This was prevalent to a slight extent in August and September, and was the cause of 7 deaths, all of children under five

years of age. Handbills were issued calling attention to the dangers and the means of prevention, and diarrhoea mixture was supplied at the Council Offices for urgent cases.

It was resolved to supply lime and brushes for lime-washing at a nominal charge.

Anthrax.—Two cases of this rare disease, which is occasionally communicated from animals to man, occurred in the district. One case proved fatal; one was taken to hospital and recovered.

The disease is very infectious in cattle, and the whole of the premises were thoroughly disinfected by the County Police authorities and the Council's men. The animal which had been slaughtered, and from which the cases were inoculated, was sold to a butcher, and by him retailed to his customers. Fortunately no evil results occurred, though great alarm was aroused. The tongue of the beast was seized, examined, and was found to contain living anthrax bacilli; and a prosecution was instituted against the butcher by the Council under the Public Health Act Sections 116 and 117, with the result that he was fined £10 and costs. A special report was presented to the Council on the whole case, and copies of it were forwarded to the Local Government Board and the County Council.

The incident gave me a great deal of trouble and anxiety for a time, and was a matter of great interest to a large number of sanitary authorities and others.

This case is an illustration of the dangers which may arise from the practice of slaughtering animals on premises which are not registered and systematically inspected.

Epidemic Influenza.—This disease was prevalent to a slight extent, and one death was due to it.

Phthisis.—Four cases were notified during the year; of these one terminated fatally. In addition, 14 other deaths were registered, making a total of 18. The phthisis death-rate, 1·14, is higher than those of the last five years.

In 9 cases a bacteriological examination of the sputum was made; 3 gave affirmative, 6 negative results. In the cases notified, forms of

instructions were left at the house and advice given. In many of the cases disinfection was carried out after the termination of the case. I regret to say that notification, which is voluntary, was made in a very small proportion of the cases; in fact, the smallest since it was adopted. As every precaution is taken to avoid interference with or to cause alarm to the patient, I am disappointed with the small number. I trust, however, that the medical men in attendance will see their way to notify, and in every case to advise disinfection of all premises which have been occupied by these cases, and thus co-operate in our measures to reduce the incidence of this disease.

At the end of the year the District was almost free from any infectious disease.

NOTE.—The Tables of the Local Government Board, usually issued as an Appendix, have been incorporated in the Report.

SANITARY WORK OF THE YEAR.

This work has been carried on systematically throughout the year in every department, and all the various branches of public health work have received due attention.

The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. E. Lord, has inspected the District regularly, and visited every nuisance: in all serious cases and in all that came before your Health Committee I visited personally, and during the year the Health Committee made a number of tours of inspection with very satisfactory and practical results.

The Sanitary Inspector has drawn up a report giving the details of this work, and showing its amount and variety, and this I have included for your consideration. It shows a considerable increase in

the amount of work done with respect to nuisances, and especially in that of the Cleansing Department.

Of the 675 nuisances dealt with most were abated by simply calling attention to them without formal notice; in 112 cases preliminary notices were written; in 79 legal notices were served; and in only 7 was it actually necessary to take legal proceedings in court, and in each case with a satisfactory result, as shown in the list following:—

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, 1904.

Date.	Defendant.	Offence.	Result.	Costs. £ s. d.	Total. £ s. d.
1904					
Jan. 23	N. & C.	Nuisance, 14-20, Buckingham Road	Withdrawn.	...	...
Mar. 22	J.W. C.	Diseased Meat	Fined £10...	3 11 6	13 11 6
Aug. 9	A. W.	Nuisance, 4-26, Birch Grove	Withdrawn.	...	...
Aug. 25	S.W. E.	Obstructing Inspector, <i>re</i> Meat	Fined £2	0 4 6	2 4 6
Nov. 1	E. R. H.	Nuisance, Farmside Place	Ordered to abate	0 12 6	0 12 6
Nov. 1	D. S. K.	Nuisance, Crescent Grove	Ordered to abate	0 9 6	0 9 6
Dec. 20	W. T. R.	Nuisance, 2-24, Ducie Grove	Ordered to abate	0 5 6	0 5 6
Aggregate				£ 17 3 6	

There was an increase in the number of complaints received, which I am pleased to see, as it shows an increased interest in sanitary matters, and helps us materially.

Certain features of the sanitary work require notice, and will be considered under separate heads.

Water Supply.—This is supplied by the Manchester Corporation, and is usually sufficient and satisfactory. Owing to the prolonged drought the supply was curtailed for a considerable period, but the quality kept good, and no complaints were made of its condition.

During the year steps have been taken to supply a farm and two

cottages with water from Stockport Corporation. There will only remain two cottages supplied with well water.

Streams.—These are gradually being culverted over. Nuisance was caused by manufacturers' refuse, and in two cases drains were found to enter. These were abated on notice.

Privies, Ashpits, and Water Closets.—Many of the midden privies in the district continue to be a prolific source of nuisance and cause of complaint owing to water lying stagnant in them, causing excessive decomposition and foul smells, and in many places they are closely adjacent to the dwellings. On complaint I inspect them personally, and only if satisfied they are a nuisance prejudicial to health do I recommend conversion to water-closets.

In one case it was necessary to apply for a magistrate's order, with a successful result. 133 were converted to water closets and 14 were abolished.

Owing to inherent faults in their construction and arrangement a number of waste-water closets have become a recurring cause of nuisance, and nine have been converted.

Water-closets have in a few cases been a source of nuisance from faulty connections or by becoming blocked up, chiefly owing to carelessness.

Sewerage.—The system on the whole works satisfactorily, but at times temporary blockage has been caused, giving rise to smells and creating a nuisance. There were many complaints during the dry weather, as flushing was necessarily stopped for the time. Various measures have been considered to abate this, without much practical result; but owing to representations of the Health Committee, the Withington Council have opened their ventikating grids, and this has caused an improvement.

Much of the old drainage is defective, and has required alteration and relaying. 170 drains were thus dealt with. The sewage is treated at the Withington Sewage Works.

Disposal of Refuse.—The bulk of this has been consumed in the destructor, but a part of the wet refuse has been deposited on

tips. It is expected that we shall now be able to consume the whole of it in the destructor.

Manure pits have been a source of much nuisance, and special attention has been given to them. It has been decided to prescribe a certain form of construction and size. House refuse has been removed by the Council's men regularly and systematically.

Smoke Nuisance.—The number of large works is not great, so there are not many large chimneys. Only a few observations were made. It was resolved to reduce the time limit for the emission of dense black smoke from ten to six minutes per hour, and letters were written to nine manufacturers informing them of the alteration.

Offensive Trades.—There are none in the district.

Factories and Workshops.—There are 21 factories in the district, many of them small, with few hands; several large, employing from 50 to 400. The sanitary conveniences are kept satisfactorily.

The workshops number 40, and are mostly small, with few employees. The number of outworkers reported was 23.

There are 25 bakehouses, many of them small. Two underground bakehouses have been closed, and one certificate was granted after alteration.

The workshops and bakehouses have been inspected periodically, and are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

The following nuisances were found, and were abated after notice:—

	Insufficient Ventilation.		Want of Cleanliness.		W.-C. in Bakehouse.		Other Nuisances.
Bakehouses...	4	...	14	...	1	...	2
Workshops...	3	...	—	...	—	...	3

In ten cases the Abstract of the Act was not affixed, and these were reported to the Factory Inspector.

Sale of Food and Drugs.—Action was taken by the Sanitary Inspector and by the County Police, and a list of the samples taken, showing their nature and the result of the analysis, is given below. Altogether 42 samples were taken, 21 of which were of milk, and of these only one was so adulterated or weakened as to require proceedings.

Two milk dealers were found selling milk from unlabelled cans and were warned, pleading ignorance of the Act.

Abstracts of the Food and Drugs Act 1889 were posted in the district, and copies sent to all milk dealers.

FOOD AND DRUGS ANALYSIS 1904.

Number of Samples Purchased by County Police and Council's Inspector.

By Superintendent KEYS.

Nature of Food.	Number of Samples.	Result of Analysis.	Remarks.
Milk	18	Genuine	Vendor fined 5s. and costs
Milk	1	5 per cent added water... ..	
Jam	3	Genuine	
Castor Oil ...	2	Genuine	
Butter	5	Genuine	
Pepper	1	Genuine	
Tea	1	Genuine	
Honey	1	Genuine	
Irish Whisky	1	Genuine	
Rum	1	Genuine	
By Inspector LORD.			
Irish Whisky	2	Genuine	Vendor cautioned
Milk	1	Genuine, unlabelled receptacle ...	
Milk	1	Genuine, unlabelled receptacle ...	Vendor cautioned
Mustard ...	1	Genuine	Vendor cautioned
Pepper	1	Genuine	
Butter	1	Margarine, exposed without label	
Coffee	1	Genuine	
Total ...	42		

In carrying out his duties under the Act the Inspector was in one instance obstructed ; proceedings were taken, and a penalty of £2 and costs inflicted.

Slaughter-houses.—These, 3 in number, have been regularly inspected, and have been kept satisfactorily.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.—The cowsheds, 8 in number, have been frequently inspected ; they have been kept fairly clean, and attention to proper ventilation has been more strictly enforced, as well as the provision of the proper air space, 800 cubic feet for each cow. It is still difficult to secure that cleanliness of the cattle themselves and of the milkers that is needed, and constant inspection and insistence is required. A case of anthrax occurred in one cowshed, and a most thorough and complete disinfection was carried out by the County Police authorities. At the same time we had the channels relaid with concrete, similar to the other cowsheds.

There are 34 milkshops and dairies. They have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

House Accommodation.—This is satisfactory both in quantity and quality, the majority of the houses having been built within recent years. One house was closed by the owner after being declared unfit for human habitation. Overcrowding was reported in two cases, and was abated ; 5 dirty houses were ordered to be cleaned and lime-washed.

It is in great measure owing to the support and co-operation I have consistently received from your Health Committee that I am able to place before you such a full and satisfactory report on your district.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. E. EDLIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

COUNCIL OFFICES.

February 15th, 1905.

LEVENSHULME URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Inspector of Nuisances

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Report on the sanitary work accomplished during the year ended 31st December 1904.

The rapid growth of the district has resulted in increased requirements, and in a considerable increase in the work done.

DETAILS.	1904.	1903.
Number of nuisances dealt with... ..	675	393
„ legal notices served	79	78
„ letters or preliminary notices written	142	73
„ complaints received	147	102
„ midden privies converted into water closets ..	133	97
„ houses disinfected after infectious diseases	59	36
„ ashpits emptied... ..	6,672	5,609
„ ashbins emptied	86,024	55,555
„ loads of refuse taken to tips and destructor ...	5,088	4,372

I have continued the policy of persuasion in dealing with the abatement of nuisances, and only in 79 cases has it been necessary to serve a formal notice. 39 of these related to the conversion of privies into water closets, and were each reported to you for your special

consideration. In 5 cases it became necessary to resort to legal proceedings, 2 were withdrawn on the owners commencing the work. In the remaining cases orders to abate were granted.

Nuisances Abated during 1904.

Midden Privies Converted to Water Closets	133
„ „ Abolished	14
Waste Water Closets Converted to Water Closets	9
Drains Taken up, Trapped, Relaid, or Reconstructed	170
Blocked-up Drains and Water Closets.....	57
Defective Ashboxes Repaired	11
„ Water Closets Repaired	22
„ Slopstone Pipes Repaired	39
„ Spouts Repaired	25
„ Yard Surfaces Repaired	28
Other General Repairs.....	22
Farm Premises Redrained	1
Cowshed Ventilated	1
Overcrowded or Dirty Houses	7
Ashpits Abolished	45
Stream Pollution by House Drains	1
Flooded Cellars.....	13
Manure-pits Rebuilt.....	2
Accumulations of Manure, Water, Filth, etc., Removed.....	20
Poultry Keeping	7
Other Nuisances under Public Health Act	18
Nuisances under Factory and Workshop Act	27
Houses Provided with Ashbins in lieu of Ashpits.....	192

This table shows the variety of nuisances which have been abated. In this work I have received much assistance from the two candidates for the Sanitary Institute's Certificate, to whom you granted permission to accompany me during my inspections. I have given them every opportunity in my power to obtain a really practical experience of an Inspector's work, and I may say they were both successful in their examinations. One of them now holds the position of Sanitary Inspector in the Borough of Ramsgate. A great deal of work remains to be done in the district, and the pressure of work at times makes assistance a necessity. Constant supervision has been maintained of the works in progress for the abatement of nuisances; and the visits

to cases of infectious diseases, and their removal to hospital, have been treated as matters of primary importance and urgency.

The number of visits paid greatly exceeds that of the preceding year.

1904.....	Total visits	3415
1903.....	„ „	1820

Every person within our district who had been in “contact” with a case of smallpox was visited three times per week until the expiration of at least 12 days from the removal of the case to hospital. This caused 94 visits to be paid, in addition to 33 visits necessary for the inspection, removal, and disinfection in connection with the case itself.

The steam disinfector has been of great service during the year, 471 articles of bedding and wearing apparel having been thoroughly disinfected by its use. The bedding van, too, has been very useful in the conveyance of infected bedding to and from the disinfector.

Summary of Visits Paid, Etc.

	1904.	1903.
No. of Visits to Work in progress Abating Nuisances.....	496 ...	295
„ „ Bakehouses	96 ...	42
„ „ Workshops	47 ...	89
„ „ Complaints	238 ...	214
„ „ Farms, Dairies.....	28 ...	64
„ „ Cases of Infectious Diseases	238 ...	114
„ Other Premises Inspected	2272 ...	1002
„ Owners Interviewed respecting Nuisances	178 ...	129
„ Occupiers „ „ „	132 ...	162
„ Drains Tested	232 ...	151
„ Occupiers Fined for Chimney Firing	29 ...	18

Visits to Cases of Infectious Diseases.

	1904.	1903.
Scarlet Fever.....	58 ...	40
Enteric Fever	7 ...	21
Smallpox.....	33 ...	23
Smallpox Contacts	94 ...	10
Phthisis	9 ...	10
Erysipelas	3 ...	5

	1904.	1903.
Diphtheria	17 ...	4
Puerperal Fever	0 ...	1
Anthrax	17 ...	0
Rooms Disinfected	59 ...	36
Articles of Bedding Disinfected	471 ...	0

CLEANSING DEPARTMENT.

In this department the increase is also marked. House refuse should be removed at short regular periods, to prevent danger arising from putrefaction. In this District 2074 houses are provided with movable ashbins, which are emptied weekly. In addition to these there is a large number of ashpits and midden privies, which, in some cases, hold as much as six months' refuse. Many of these are uncovered, and in close proximity to houses. About 120 have been abolished during the year, and the houses using them, numbering 192, have been provided with small bins.

MONTH.	Ashbins Emptied.	Ashpits Emptied.	Loads of Refuse taken to Tip or Destructor.
1901.			
January	6,962	332	439
February... ..	5,906	417	469
March	6,233	566	518
April	7,283	469	451
May... ..	6,271	467	381
June	7,988	593	496
July... ..	6,547	552	410
August	8,424	741	440
September	6,996	759	355
October	7,162	760	378
November	7,289	505	344
December	8,960	481	407
Whole Year	86,024	6,672	5,088

The destructor has been of considerable advantage during the year, both in the destruction of refuse and its nearness to the centre of the District. The sale of mortar commenced in July, and during the latter part of the year 221 tons have been made and sold. 233 loads of

clinker have also been disposed of, partly to the Highways department and partly to contractors. The plant has proved its efficiency, and has been found to be equal to the requirements of the district at present. During the anthrax outbreak the destructor was specially utilised for the destruction of the infected manure, dung, and litter from Greenbank Farm.

Hackney Coach Department.

NUMBER OF LICENCES ISSUED.

Hackney Carriages	9
Tramcars	45
Hackney Carriage Drivers	20
Tramcar Drivers	75
Conductors.....	76

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Defendant.	Offence.	Result.
E. C. A.	Cab without Licence	Fined 1s. and costs.
„	Employing Driver without Licence.....	To pay costs.
W. B.	Driving Cab without Licence	Fined 1s. and costs.
F. R.	„ „ „	Fined 1s. and costs.
D. G.	„ „ „	To pay costs.

In conclusion, I beg to tender my thanks to you, gentlemen, for your kindness and courtesy towards me, and to the officials for their valuable assistance.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. ERNEST LORD,

Inspector of Nuisances.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

LEVENSHULME, *February 1905.*

